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Smart About Water Quick Fact:

Though TMWA's combined water system is not the largest in the Western US, it is one of the more complex. With facility elevations ranging from above the surface of Lake Tahoe (6,223 ft.), down to the Truckee River, it takes a lot of pipes, pumps, and pressure regulating stations to keep it all going. This includes:

96 Tanks	86 Wells	118 Pump Stations
393 Pressure Regulation Stations	31,762 Total Gate Values	

2,147 Miles
Of Pressurized Water Mains

Across a 171 square mile service area!

Rehabilitation of Old Booster Pump Station Results in a New Clean Energy Source

Sometimes a tool can be used for more than one purpose. The rehabilitation of TMWA's Orr Ditch Booster Pump Station is an example. The project improved a critical backup system for water delivery to Chalk Bluff Water Treatment Plant and also incorporated a new hydroelectric facility in the process using existing infrastructure.

The result of this project not only safeguards water supply but also produces renewable energy. When this electricity is produced, it can be delivered directly to Chalk Bluff. If not needed at the plant, the power can be wheeled back into the municipal power grid, reducing TMWA's energy bill.

"This was a huge cross-functional collaboration," explains Jason Barnes, TMWA's Facilities and Generation Manager. "Nearly all departments played a role in making sure both the booster station and hydroelectric facility could operate productively."

The project was approved by the Board of Directors in February 2020. The multimillion-dollar effort was funded primarily through TMWA's ratepayer-supported capital program and from a settlement related to the former Farad Hydroelectric facility.

"The return on investment for the hydro component is around ten years," said Barnes. "After that, it's pure benefit – renewable power that offsets costs for our customers."

The Orr Ditch Hydroelectric Facility is expected to be fully operational by fall 2026, following major scheduled maintenance at Chalk Bluff this winter.



The Orr Ditch Booster Pump Station is a backup raw water source for Chalk Bluff Water Treatment Plant. If the Highland Canal (the main raw water source) needs to be taken offline, the Orr Ditch Pump Station comes online to convey water to Chalk Bluff.

Protecting Our Region's Upstream Water Supply: Work Wraps Up on the Ladybug Forest Health and Fuels Reduction Project

The Ladybug Project (in blue oval) was completed last month. It is the a project of the Middle Truckee River Watershed Forest Partnership, of which TMWA is a founding member. The project area was selected to prevent the impact of wildfire on Stampede Reservoir, which is an important part of the Truckee River system and our water supply.



Truckee River Fund Project Update

Founded to help improve and restore the health of the Truckee River and its watershed, twice a year, the Truckee River Fund (TRF) provides grants to local agencies and organizations to accomplish this goal. Members of the TRF Advisory Committee are appointed by the cities of Reno and Sparks and Washoe County. They review and select projects, and recommend funding to TMWA's Board of Directors. Selected projects must also provide matching funds, which optimize the impact of TMWA's contribution.

This year, the TMWA Board approved \$865,739 in funding for the following projects:

- ✓ **One Truckee River** – Watershed Protection Benefit Project
- ✓ **Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful** – River Clean Ups, Adopt-A-River Program and community education
- ✓ **Sierra Nevada Journeys** – Watershed Education Initiative in local schools
- ✓ **Truckee River Watershed Council** – Independence Lake Watershed Aquatic Organism Passage Project
- ✓ **Reno Food Systems** – Cultivating watershed resilience at an agricultural interface
- ✓ **Friends of Mt. Rose Wilderness** – Reseeding project for the long-term health and biodiversity of the watershed
- ✓ **Washoe County Parks and Open Space** – Mayberry Park Watershed and public restrooms project
- ✓ **The Reno Initiative for Shelter & Equality (RISE)** – River Stewards project
- ✓ **Great Basin Outdoor School** – Youth Watershed Education Truckee River Snapshot Day
- ✓ **Indigenous Peoples Council on Biocolonialism** – Restoring Truckee River's Ecological Health through Solid Waste Removal
- ✓ **City of Reno** – Invasive Weed Control & Vegetation Management and Strengthening Stewardship for the Truckee River
- ✓ **Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation** – Rosewood Nature Study Area: Unique and interactive signage

Since TRF's inception in 2004, \$17.9 million has been approved for distribution for 239 qualifying projects, with \$31.3 million matched from organizations receiving funds. The next funding period will be spring 2026.

View details on all current and completed TRF projects at www.truckeeriverfund.org. Donations to help fund these types of efforts can be made by contacting the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada, TRF's grant administrator.

Where to Call

General Inquiries	775-834-8080
Emergency Repair	775-834-8090
Water Conservation	775-834-8005
Water Quality	775-834-8118
Water Rights	775-834-8029
Ombudsman	775-848-0813



Truckee Meadows Water Authority is a community-owned water utility, overseen by elected officials and citizen appointees from Reno, Sparks and Washoe County.

TMWA employs a highly skilled team who ensure the treatment, delivery and availability of high-quality drinking water around the clock for more than 475,000 Truckee Meadows residents.

Events and Public Meetings

New Years Day Holiday: TMWA Offices Closed

January 1

Meeting: Board of Directors

January 21, 10 a.m. – noon. Sparks City Council Chambers

Martin Luther King Jr. Day: TMWA Offices Closed

January 19

Find details for all workshops and meetings at tmwa.com/meeting.

